

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211103

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 211103 ACTION MOSCOW DATED 25 SEP

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211103

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, UR

SUBJ: POSSIBLE SOVIET PURCHASES OF U.S. GRAINS

1. FYI. ADMINISTRATION REMAINS DETERMINED TO AVOID EXPORT CONTROLS ON GRAINS AND SOYBEANS DURING THE CROP YEAR NOW BEGINNING, BUT THE SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION IN THE U.S. FOR THESE ITEMS CONTINUES TO BE TIGHT. USG URGENTLY NEEDS UP TO DATE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE FOREIGN PURCHASES OF GRAINS AND SOYBEANS AND HAS ALREADY APPROACHED THE EC, JAPAN AND OTHERS FOR SUCH INFORMATION AND RECEIVED A GENERALLY FAVORABLE AND INFORMATIVE RESPONSE. WE ALSO NEED THIS INFORMATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE IS IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE SUBSTANTIALLY THE U.S. MARKET SITUATION. END FYI.

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2. WITH ABOVE BACKGROUND IN MIND, CHARGE IS REQUESTED TO MAKE FORMAL APPROACH TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT ASAP, PREFERABLY AT DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL OR HIGHER (SENIOR DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE KUZMIN WOULD BE IDEAL), AND INQUIRE ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS REGARDING PURCHASES OF U.S. GRAINS FOR THE COMING CROP YEAR ENDING LATE NEXT SUMMER. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS APPROACH IS BEING MADE ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON.

3. IN MAKING THIS INQUIRY, YOU SHOULD INDICATE TO SOVIETS THAT USG HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED SIMILAR INFORMATION FROM OTHER MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS SUCH AS THE EC AND JAPAN. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NEEDS THIS INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT WE SPECIFICALLY WISH TO KNOW WHETHER THE SOVIETS INTEND TO PURCHASE U.S. GRAIN (BOTH FOOD AND FEED-GRAINS, AND SOYBEANS) AND IF SO IN WHAT AMOUNTS. YOU SHOULD ALSO INDICATE THAT WHILE THE U.S., OF COURSE, CAN MAKE NO FIRM COMMITMENTS AT THIS TIME, UNLESS THE SOVIETS CAN GIVE US RELIABLE ADVANCE INFORMATION ON THEIR PROSPECTIVE PURCHASES, THE UNITED STATES MAY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MEET UNANTICIPATED SOVIET REQUIREMENTS IF IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. SHOULD LATER BE REQUESTED. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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